



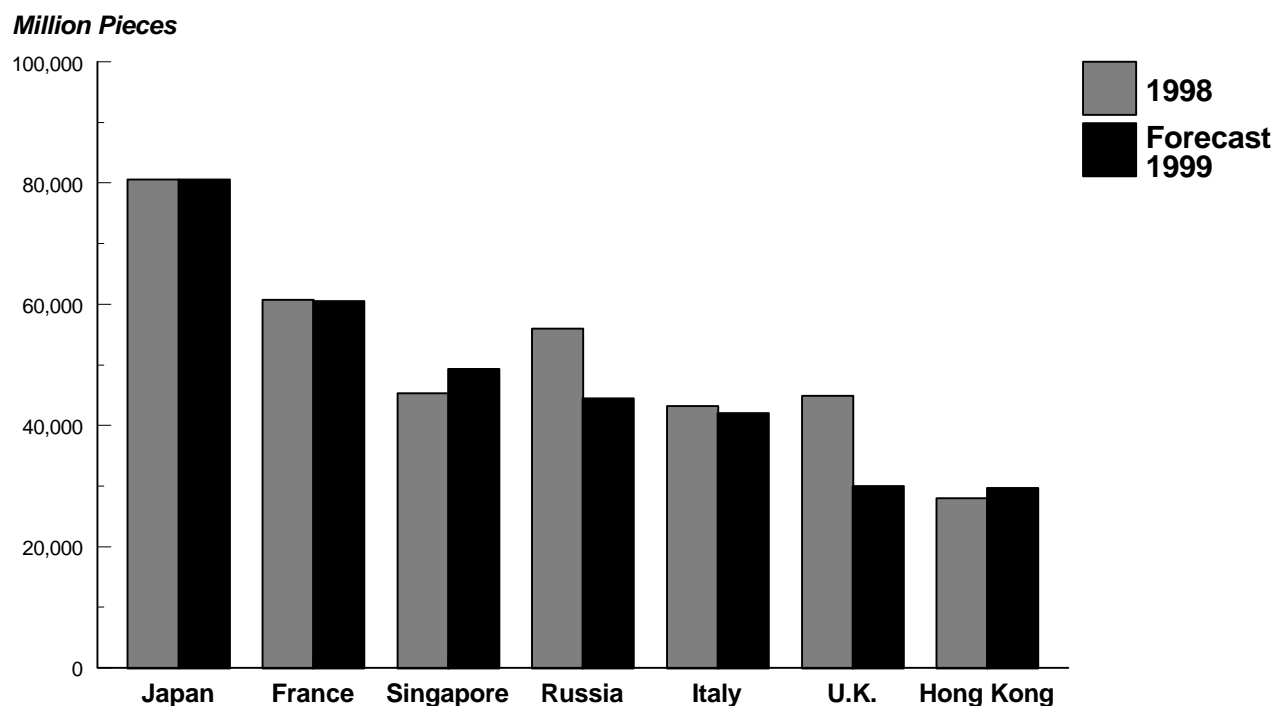
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Tobacco: World Markets and Trade

World's Top Cigarette Importing Nations



World cigarette imports are forecast down slightly in 1999 at 649,746 billion pieces. Cigarette imports to Asia are expected to increase gradually as the Asian economy improves. Imports by Russia are projected to decline 31 percent due to increased domestic production. Cigarette exports to the UK are projected to fall by 33 percent in 1999. High tobacco taxes in the UK have resulted in a switch away from cigarettes to hand rolled tobacco.